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VISITORS' GUIDE

TO



Mount Vernon

By Elizabeth B. Young

A visit to the National Capital is but half made unless it includes the home and tomb of Washington.—EVERETT.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

PRICE, 25 CTS.

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AN EXTENSIVE traveller and witty friend of the writer sweepingly declares that "Guide-books contain everything which one does not wish to know."

With the hope that the brevity of the following pages will save this little Guide from even the suspicion of conveying undesirable information, the possessor is respectfully invited to peruse it first, and render judgment afterwards.

It is simply designed as a practical assistant to the visitor to Mount Vernon, all merely patriotic or poetic sentimentality being purposely avoided.

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Elizabeth Boyd Johnston

MOUNT VERNON,

The home of Washington, is situated on the right bank of the Potomac, about seventeen miles southeast of the Capital, and is approached either by land or water. Part of the year it is a pleasant drive by private conveyance, across the famous Long Bridge, *viâ* the interesting old town of Alexandria, and through a thickly wooded drive, six miles further on, to the old Porters' Lodges. The drive, after leaving Alexandria, is chiefly upon what formerly constituted the Washington Estate, which was a princely domain of 10,000 acres. However, very few persons are induced to take the drive, for daily, during the season, at 10 A. M. (Sundays-excepted,) the

STEAMER ARROW

leaves the Seventh-street wharf for the Mount Vernon landing, returning in the afternoon about five o'clock; thus enabling visitors to pass several hours among the historic associations of the resting-place of Washington.

The captain of the Arrow is not only an efficient, but considerate officer, neglecting nothing which may give comfort and pleasure to the patrons of his boat.

The number of persons who take this trip during

the year is very great, coming from every State of the Republic and from all civilized portions of the world. Even the Indian delegations are unwilling to pass before the iron door of the Tomb without pushing their tawny hands through the iron bars and pronouncing in solemn dignity the characteristic salutation, "How!"

Leaving the Capital, the first object upon the left bank of the Potomac is the

UNITED STATES ARSENAL,

the grounds of which are beautiful and well-kept. In 1864 an explosion of cartridges and signal-rockets in the workshop instantly killed twenty-one young girls, to whose memory a handsome monument was erected in the Congressional Cemetery, by the citizens of Washington. A sadder tragedy even than this casts its shadow here—the culminating horror of the assassination of President Lincoln.

Just across the Eastern Branch, which flows into the Potomac below the Arsenal, is the

GOVERNMENT INSANE HOSPITAL;

and on the Virginia shore, not far distant, the Fairfax Theological Seminary forms a prominent feature of the landscape. This is often mistaken for "Fairfax Court-house," which, though near, is not visible from the river.

Below the junction, on the Maryland side, is

GIESBORO' POINT,

famous, during the late war, as a Government corral for horses. A little beyond are the Naval Powder-Magazines, which were removed from the vicinity of the city in consequence of the danger to the Capitol in the event of an explosion. Below Giesboro' Point is the river terminus of the extension of the Baltimore and Ohio R.R. The first landing is at the town of

ALEXANDRIA,

where the old-style spire of "Christ Church," of which Washington was so long a vestryman, is readily identified. On one of the principal streets leading from the river is a large hotel; part of the rear of this building, a low section, with three dormer windows, is the old "Carey House," which was occupied as the

HEADQUARTERS OF GEN. BRADDOCK.

The room in which Col. George Washington made his last appeal to Braddock to forego the civilized methods of warfare in his projected battle with the Indians before the disastrous engagement of Monongahela, 1755, remains unchanged, and is well worth a visit. In this neighborhood is the "Marshall House," rebuilt upon the site of the one in which Col. Ellsworth was shot in 1861.

A short distance from Alexandria, at the mouth of Hunting Creek, is

JONES' POINT,

where a Government light-house was established a few years before the war.

The second landing is

FORT FOOT,

a strong earth-work, constructed during the war.

FORT WASHINGTON

is the last landing made before reaching Mount Vernon, and is just four miles distant therefrom.

Fort Washington was first called Warburton, and its availability as a point of fortification was suggested to General Washington as he viewed the elevated spot from the eastern portico of his home, about the year 1790. It was blown up and abandoned in 1814 by our own forces, when the British troops passed up the river and captured Alexandria. From Fort Washington is had a fine view of the Capitol, the grand Dome seeming to touch the sky. It was here that an Indian was so impressed by the beauty of that wonder of architecture that he exclaimed: "White man did not build it; God made it!"

From the same point we obtain our first glimpse of

MOUNT VERNON.

The Mansion House looks quite stately from the river; being situated about two hundred feet above the water, its general effect is never disappointing. Immediately under the bluff upon which the Mansion stands is the reservation of five acres, which was formerly used as a Deer Park. There is a proposal to re-establish this Park, and a gentleman from Virginia has generously offered to stock it with deer. This, with many other restorations and improvements, is only a question of time. On the river front of the Deer Park is a landing of historic interest. The commander of a British vessel during the Revolution sent a boat's crew ashore and demanded provisions, threatening in event of refusal to burn the Mansion. The frightened overseer complied with the demand, thus preventing the destruction of the house; but Washington wrote him a letter of reproof, which is still on record, ordering, in case of another attack, "to let everything be burned rather than give aid or comfort to the enemy." The main part of the wharf was constructed by Washington, but it has been extended in consequence of the increasing shallowness of the river. From this wharf he used to load his barges with flour ground at his own mill, the famous brand, "George Washington, Mount

Vernon," being so well known at the custom-houses as to pass without inspection.

Visitors are met at the landing by the courteous Superintendent, and proceed up a rather fatiguing carriage-way to

THE TOMB.

Those who are not able to make this ascent of an eighth of a mile are provided with a vehicle. To the left of the road is a high, well-wooded hill-side abounding in trailing arbutus and other flowers. On the right is an open park, extending beyond the house. About half way up, in a small ravine, are several weeping willows, brought from the grave of Napoleon, at St. Helena. These vividly recall the immortal epigrammatic order issued by the First Consul to his army on the death of Washington, beginning with—

“WASHINGTON, THE FRIEND OF LIBERTY, IS DEAD!”

The Tomb is a plain brick structure, familiar, through multiplied prints, to every school-boy in the land. It was built by Washington's executors, and in pursuance of a clause in his will designating the location, and saying, “it shall be built of brick.” The front of the Tomb is unpretending, with wide, arching gateway and double iron gates, above which, upon a plain marble slab, is this inscription :

“WITHIN THIS ENCLOSURE REST THE REMAINS OF
“GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON.”

The anteroom to the vault is about twelve feet square, and here are seen the sarcophagi; the one on the right containing the remains of General Washington, and that on the left, those of Martha, his wife. In the vault at the rear repose about thirty of the family relatives—Washingtons, Blackburns. Corbins. Bushrods, Lewises, and Custises.

To this vault the body of Washington was removed in 1831, in consequence of a general feeling of insecurity, a man having broken into the old tomb and stolen a skull, which he claimed to be that of Washington, but which proved to be of one of the Blackburn family.

In the winter of 1832, Congress, for the second time, made an effort to effect the removal of Washington's body to the chamber under the crypt of the Capitol, originally designed for its reception.

Adams, Clay, Webster, Thomas, and even Washington's venerable biographer, Chief-Justice Marshall, were all earnest in their endeavors to secure this removal, the centennial anniversary of his birth being selected for the solemn occasion. The family, however, was firm in refusal through respect for the well-known wish of the illustrious dead. The body was placed in the sarcophagus where it now rests, on the 7th of October, 1837. The door of the inner vault was then closed, and the key thrown into the Potomac.

Over this door, on a plain tablet, is the inscription,
 "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. HE THAT
 "BELIEVETH IN ME, THOUGH HE WERE DEAD,
 "YET SHALL HE LIVE."

The sarcophagus of Mrs. Washington is perfectly plain, with the simple words,

MARTHA,

CONSORT OF WASHINGTON.

DIED MAY 21ST, 1801; AGED 71 YEARS.

The sarcophagus of Washington is also plain, being ornamented only with the United States coat of arms, upon a draped flag, under which is the single word,

WASHINGTON.

One of the talons of the eagle, in the coat of arms, was broken off during the civil war by some eager relic-hunter, which incident suggested the outer and higher gate. This was the only outrage committed at Mount Vernon, though the unarmed pickets of both armies often met before the tomb—here, and here only, met as brothers. At the servants' request they left their arms at whatever point they entered the sacred domain, which was frequently three-quarters of a mile away, at the old Porter's Lodge.

THE OLD TOMB.

The original Tomb of Washington is seen to the

right of the path to the house, and is surrounded by a black railing. This spot commands an extended view of the river, and has not the secluded quiet of the one now occupied, which may have been the reason why Washington desired the removal of the family vault.

“WASHINGTON OAK.”

There stands near the path to the house a magnificent primitive oak, measuring twelve feet in circumference. Its wide shelter was a favorite resting-place of the retired chieftain, on returning from the wharf, where he was in the habit of personally superintending the loading of his barges. The “Washington Oak” has lost some of its glory in a severe storm, but the new growth is rapid and very beautiful.

OLD BRICK BARN.

The first building reached after the ascent is a large old barn, erected in 1733 by Lawrence Washington, the brother from whom Washington inherited this estate. This commodious store-house was built of bricks brought from England. It has recently been re-roofed, and is in a perfect state of preservation. It will well repay a few moments of attention, as showing that the gentlemen of the “old school” were not far behind the present time in their ideas of shelter, and that “a merciful man is ever merciful to his beast.”

MANSION-HOUSE.

The Mansion-House is a wooden structure, the sidings of which are cut and painted to resemble stone. The central and main part was built by Lawrence Washington in 1743, and he called it "Mount Vernon," after his highly-esteemed superior officer in the British navy, the gallant Admiral Vernon. The corner-stone, with the initials "L.W.," the date, and Masonic emblems, may be seen in the cellar. This cellar is very ample, constructed according to the old-fashioned ideas of durability, and there seems no reason, with such a substantial foundation, why the building should not stand five hundred years, as well as one.

The parts of the house known as the North and South extensions were added by General Washington 1784-'5. The residence, as left by Lawrence Washington, had been termed a "villa;" as enlarged, with extensions, colonnades in front and back, by George Washington, it was dignified as a "Mansion-House." Its length was ninety-six feet and its depth thirty feet.

COLONNADES.

The east piazza, or colonnade, extends the entire front of the house. It is fifteen feet wide and twenty-five feet high. Eight large square pillars support the roof, which is ornamented by a balustrade. It is paved with flags, brought from the Isle of Wight, which are

twelve inches square and two and a half inches thick. The curved colonnades on the west side are covered ways leading from the extensions to the kitchen on one side, and on the other side to a house used by the head cook, and also affording accommodations for a clerk.

KEY OF THE BASTILE.

Entering the main hall from the east colonnade, the first object of interest is the "Key of the Bastile," which hangs in a glass casket on the south wall, where it was placed by General Washington's own hand on the nail from which it has never been removed.

This emblem of oppression was presented to the "great friend of Liberty" by Lafayette, immediately after the destruction of the Bastile, 1789, a compliment highly prized by Washington. In writing of it, the Marquis said: "It is a tribute which I owe as a son to my adopted father; as an aide-de-camp to my general; as a missionary of liberty to its patriarch."

This souvenir was confided to the care of that staunch republican, Thomas Paine, who, being detained in London, consigned it to another person, together with a drawing of the Bastile, which had been ordered by Lafayette just previous to his command to demolish the old prison. Paine, in writing to Washington, very happily says: "That the principles of America opened the Bastile is not to be doubted; and, therefore, the key comes to the right place."

BRACKETS. KNOCKER, &c.

On the north side of the hall are two ornamental lamp brackets. Above the door of the east parlor are the iron hooks upon which rested the favorite spy-glass of Washington, used by him in his earliest surveys of the Allegheny mountains and throughout his military career. The quaint wood-work wainscotings and designs of cornice and ceiling of this hall and the two rooms on either side—this being the old part of the house—will attract general attention.

The ponderous old brass knocker on the west door of the hall, which has been lifted by so many illustrious guests, presents a dignified individuality, quite opposed to the giddy jingling bell of modern times.

EAST PARLOR.

In the east parlor is a large glass case of interesting relics, which, being labeled, tell their own special tales. Conspicuous among them is the first cast of Washington's face, made by Houdon, on the taking of which, it is said, the old hero was more frightened than ever in a battle, as he declared he had never been in so much danger from an enemy's ball.

The large globe in this room was the property of Washington. The side-board is one of the original pieces of furniture used by Lawrence Washington, and was returned to Mount Vernon a few years ago by the

late Mrs. Robert E. Lee, who was the daughter of G. W. P. Custis, the adopted son of Washington.

From the east parlor, the north extension is entered. This is the old

STATE DINING-ROOM,

and for its day was a princely *salon*. Lafayette, Rochambeau, Hamilton, Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Richard Henry Lee, Elkanah Watson, Aaron Burr, Houdon, Charles Wilson Peale, the artists Trumbull and Pine, and many of the great Generals of the Revolution, honored it with their presence. The high ceiling is white, and stuccoed with agricultural designs. An elaborately carved mantel-piece of Carrara marble, with Sienna marble columns, is the chief ornament of this room. It was wrought in Italy, and presented to Washington by Mr. Samuel Vaughan, an English gentleman. On its passage from Italy it fell into the hands of French pirates, who, upon discovering that it was intended for George Washington, sent it uninjured to its destination. It has received less respectful treatment from unknown

LAND PIRATES,

for its delicately-carved figures and ornaments have been mutilated and broken by relic-hunters. Strange to say, this and other kinds of reckless desecration are constantly indulged in by persons who visit Mount

Vernon, in spite of the watchful care of the Superintendent and his associates.

In front of the mantel, in a large glass-case, with heavy silver mountings, is a

MODEL OF THE BASTILE,

cut from one of the granite stones of the demolished prison—a recent contribution. The harpsichord, Washington's bridal present to Eleanor Custis, still stands in this room. It was considered a very elegant article of furniture nearly a century ago, and cost a thousand dollars. The stiff chairs, the stately sofa, and the slim-legged side-table comprise about all of the original furniture. The large plain chair, now kept in this room, in which Washington preferred to sit, came over in the *Mayflower*. On the mantel once stood three rare porcelain vases, made in India, and ornamented in London, which were sent to Washington by the same gentleman who presented the mantel-piece. They are now in the Patent Office.

It would be a satisfaction to visitors if these and other articles of furniture and ornament could be restored to their places in the Mansion.

The fine specimen of sea-weed on the mantel has been there at least half a century, having been placed in its present position by John Augustine Washington. The liquor-case in this room was presented by Lord Fairfax, between whom and Washington there existed

a peculiar friendship. Washington was only sixteen years old when he received a commission from Lord Fairfax, who was quite an old man, to make surveys of his property beyond the Blue Ridge. The young surveyor was so successful in this undertaking that he shortly afterwards received the appointment of Public Surveyor.

The military equipments, holsters, etc., were those used by Washington in Braddock's campaign. Over the mantel is a fine copy of Stuart's Washington, and on the east wall a copy of Trumbull's portrait, representing him in uniform, both pictures being the work of Lambdin, a Philadelphia artist. Beneath the latter hangs a frame containing an admirable eulogy, two copies of which were presented very recently to the ladies of the Association by Gen. Robert C. Schenck.

"This tribute to the memory of George Washington was written at his grave in 1833 by Dr. Andrew Reed, an English philanthropist, and left by him with the ladies of the General's family. Dr. Reed asks: 'How could the people suffer Mount Vernon to pass into ruin? Surely it is a thing impossible!'"

WASHINGTON,

The Brave, The Wise, the Good;

WASHINGTON,

Supreme in War, in Council, and in Peace;

WASHINGTON,

Valiant	Discreet	Confident
without	without	without
Ambition ;	Fear ;	Presumption ;

WASHINGTON,

In Disaster, Calm ; In Success, Moderate ; In All,
Himself ;

WASHINGTON,

The Hero, The Patriot, The Christian ;
The Father of Nations, The Friend of Mankind :
who,

When he had won all, renounced all,
and sought,
In the Bosom of his Family and of Nature,
Retirement,
And in the Hope of Religion,
Immortality.

On the west side of the room is the famous equestrian portrait of Washington, by Rembrandt Peale, known as

“WASHINGTON BEFORE YORKTOWN.”

which was presented to the ladies of the “Mount Vernon Association” in June, 1873, by the heirs of that distinguished artist. It is a rich possession and a very elegant contribution. No other picture of the great man elicited so much approval from his contemporaries.

and this valuable canvas could not be placed amid more harmonious associations. It is exceedingly well colored, and the drawing is full of vigor and grace. It presents the Captain in the zenith of his glory, and at a moment when all the force of the commander is called forth in the act of rebuking a subordinate for perilous neglect of duty. The accompanying portraits of Hamilton, Lafayette, Knox, Lincoln, and Rochambeau greatly enhance this picture. The elegant walnut frame of this painting was made from a tree grown upon the farm of Robert Morris, the financier of the Revolution.

THE WEST PARLOR

contains one of the original large mirrors, several steel engravings, and over the mantel-piece a panel picture of Admiral Vernon's engagement before Carthagen. This is sadly discolored by age, and a piece has been torn from the corner, (by *a woman*, I am sorry to say,) but the fragment was recovered, and it is hoped that the painting can be restored. In this room is a colored plate of the Washington family coat of arms, with complete heraldic explanation; which coat of arms also appears on the cast-iron back of each fireplace.

SELECTION OF ROOMS BY THE ORIGINAL THIRTEEN STATES.

This room (the west parlor) has been selected, but

not as yet furnished, by the State of Connecticut. Each of the original thirteen States has the privilege of selecting a room and placing in it whatever mementos or furniture may be contributed from that State, as having historic association. This opens a repository for valuable relics, and places them where they will be well cared for, and more generally seen than elsewhere; besides giving additional interest to the old home of Washington. Each State will have its coat of arms above the door of the room selected by it.

The first door on the south side leads to the

FAMILY DINING-ROOM,

now used as a general reception-room. The only interesting relic here is an old mirror, the companion to the one hanging in the west parlor. There is a fine engraving of "Washington, on the field of Trenton, returning a salute," which was executed by Wm. Holl, from the painting by John Faed; also several small pictures and two very fine medallion engravings of General and Mrs. Washington, after Stuart's portraits. These were presented by Edward Everett to Miss Cunningham, the first regent, and a daughter of the "Matron of South Carolina," who, in conjunction with Mr. Everett, first awakened an interest in the purchase and preservation of Mount Vernon.

Next east of this is the

COUNCIL-ROOM,

Washington's former study or library, before the extension was built. It is probable the description he gave his brother Lawrence—then in the West Indies—of the battle of Monongahela, was penned in this little room. It is a spirited description of a battle, and remarkable, as written by one of the chief actors in it, without mentioning his own name. It is accepted as the only authentic account of that sanguinary engagement written in America.

Over the mantel is a portrait of Miss Cunningham by Lambdin, and over one of the doors hangs a steel engraving of Lord Chatham. Another engraving is that of Admiral Vernon, after a painting by T. Bardwell. It bears the following quaint inscription :

“The Honorable Edward Vernon, Esq., Vice-Admiral of the Blue. Commander-in-chief of all his Majesty's ships in the West Indies.”

“To the Right Honorable Lord Mayor, the Court of Aldermen, and ye Common Council of ye City of London, this plate is humbly dedicated by their most obedient servant, John Taber.”

The names (with amounts noted) of those who contributed the sum total of one thousand dollars for the restoration of the east colonnade, a few years ago, is framed, and hangs as a neat memorial upon the walls of this room.

It is the felicitous purpose of the ladies of the Association that the coats of arms of all the States be placed here. Several have already been sent. The great seal of Wisconsin, beautifully carved in wood, is placed over the south door. Should each State send its requested tribute in a special wood, (of course of its indigenous growth,) carved in the best style, the effect of the diverse and yet harmonious emblems will be unique and beautiful.

THE LIBRARY.

Through a small hall, the Library, or south extension, is reached. This room was designed by Washington, and is so plain as to seem to have no design at all. It is square, and has two large windows opening to the floor, which lead to the south portico. This portico has very recently been replaced, and so very exactly does it resemble an old structure that it is thought by many to be the original one. From it a fine view is had of the river and the lawn, embracing both tombs.

In the Library is a large case with glass doors, filled with Mount Vernon records, which can here be purchased, and should be read all over the country in order that the people may duly comprehend the efforts of the energetic ladies who have secured Mount Vernon sacred to the memory of Washington forever.

The Library is deceptive ; it is not so meaningless, with its simple wainscoting, as it seems. It is a room within rooms—in a word, three sides of it are closets ; seventeen are known—panel closets for silver, little closets in corners near the floor and near the ceiling—closets within closets.

There is none of the original furniture here, and nothing of interest save a fine plaster-cast of the head of Lafayette, probably a copy of the bust ordered by the Virginia Legislature, 1786, from Houdon, to be put in the Capitol at Richmond.

STAIRWAY.

The stairway leading from the main hall is broad, but severely plain. It is divided into three sections. On the first landing is the old hall clock, which stood there during Washington's life.

LAFAYETTE'S ROOM.

(NEW JERSEY.)

The first room on the left, opening into the upper hall, is known as the "Lafayette Room," in honor of the Marquis, who occupied it on both of his visits to Mount Vernon. It is chosen and furnished by the Vice-Regent of New Jersey for that old State. The dressing-case, looking-glass, and bureau were placed there when the room was fitted up for its distinguished

occupant; also, one of the small tables, covered with rich silken brocade. The other, beautifully embroidered with Masonic emblems and the New Jersey coat of arms, is more recent. On the dressing-case is a pair of antique bronze candlesticks, used by Washington at Morristown. There is a very elegant screen, frame of mahogany, and capped with marble, with fluting of delicate silk. Upon the walls is a small "fruit piece," embroidered in silk, a contribution by the descendant of the fair dame who so deftly worked it during Revolutionary years.

There is an engraving of Stuart's full-length portrait of Washington, from the picture which was painted for the Marquis of Lansdowne, engraved by Ormsbey.

There is also an engraving by Buttre, after Woolaston, from the portrait of Martha Washington, known as the "Bride of Mount Vernon." It is a wonderfully beautiful face, with the well-drawn eyes for which this artist was distinguished in his pictures of women, but is often criticised because it gives her the effect of being a tall woman, by reason of a false perspective of landscape, as she is presented as having just stepped from the east colonnade of Mount Vernon.

A very fine engraving by Lereoux hangs over the mantle. It is from the portrait of Lafayette by Ary Scheffer. It was taken from that fine portrait of the Marquis which his artist friend painted while visiting

him at La Grange, and presented to the United States Government in 1822, and which now hangs in the Hall of Representatives.

The second door is the Pennsylvania Room. The furniture herein was all used by Washington. Over an old desk hangs an engraving of the sitting statue of Washington, ordered by the State of South Carolina from Canova. Washington is presented in the costume of an old Roman, holding in his hand a stone tablet, upon which he has begun to inscribe laws; and, with bared head, he is leaving in the past the chieftain and becoming the statesman.

The inscription is—

“GIOGIO WASHINGTON.

“Alla Grande Nazione degli Stati Uniti di Americo.

“ANTONIO CANOVA.”

The small room on the east front of the hall was selected by the Vice-Regent of Delaware, and it is furnished with revolutionary relics. The coat of arms of this State is above the door. The coat of arms of Maryland, over the door on the south side of the hall, indicates what State has chosen this room. It was formerly occupied by Eleanor Custis, and contains the same articles of furniture with which it was fitted up for that young lady.

THE ROOM IN WHICH WASHINGTON DIED.

Passing through a large room, which is to be used as a repository of relics, and then a small hall, the room in which Washington died is entered. It is a medium-sized bed-room. On one side is the large fireplace, in which is observed the Washington coat of arms. On the west side is a dressing-room, and an ample linen closet; on the south are two large windows, sliding back into the wall and reaching to the floor. They open upon the top of the portico and command a beautiful view.

The bedstead is a *fac simile* of that on which the hero died, and was often slept upon by him. The one which formerly stood here was literally cut to bits by the *small* relic-hunter, and it is a mortifying comment upon the travelling public that it is found absolutely requisite to have a guard in this room whenever opened.

There are here several stands which were used in this room; and the old bureau, which the zealous public has deprived of its last brass knob; a pair of stately large andirons in the old fireplace; and a portrait of Washington, presented by Mrs. Judge Ball, of Virginia, though it does not reflect the generally accepted idea of that great man. On the wall is an interesting relic—a newspaper, published in Alexandria, and the one in which was the first announcement of the death of Washington. Its decorous utterances of most pro-

found grief are quite Addisonian, and are a phase of the stilted ceremonial of the times. Virginia has very appropriately selected this room in which her greatest son died. A small stairway leads to the room above, used by the

WIDOW OF WASHINGTON

from the day of his death until May, 1801, two years after, when she, too, died.

This room has one piece of the original furniture, the small plain mahogany wash-stand; but it has recently been very elegantly refitted by Mrs. Mitchel, Vice-Regent from Wisconsin. Every piece of furniture has been reproduced in mahogany. The carpet, which was of home manufacture, has been imitated in handsome velvet by the cunning of the best looms of France at great cost. The old gay calico bed-hangings are copied in softest and most expensive woollen cretonne, and lined with rose-colored rep-silk. These hangings are finished with fringe and caught with heavy cord and tassels; the same rich covering of cretonne is on the old style chairs; the pillow-cases are reproduced with an embroidered crest, and the initials, M. W. Upon a Bible-stand in the room is the coat of arms, with motto, "*Exitus acta probat.*" The same style ebony work-box which used to be upon Mrs. Washington's bureau, and a pair of small white French vases, with a simple

spray of rose-colored hyacinth upon them, which sat on either side of the work-box, are reproduced.

During the two years she survived her beloved husband the lonely mourner passed most of her time by the window of this room, with often no other companion than her pet cat, for the convenience of which a corner of the door had been cut off, enabling the dumb friend to come and go. There, in a room without fire, even in winter, but tenderly cared for by domestics, she sat by the window, because from it alone could she command a view of her grand husband's resting place :

“ Gazing through the morning's light,
At noon-tide, looking fondly down—
Peering forth in sombre night—
Or when the leaves are green or brown :
Or when the snow soft shrouds the mound,
Where lies the sleeper under ground.”

“ Looking and longing ever there, with faith
That in some golden hour, his spirit, robed
In drapery of light, and winged with love,
Should come to her with blessings in his eyes,
And sweetly feed, with old-time rapturous smiles,
Her famished soul. O, wondrous, wondrous Love !
Which dieth not with death, nor yet hath life
Save with the living. Thou Mystery of Universe !”

CUPOLA.

There are five small rooms on the third floor, which have not yet been selected by States. These rooms are half stories, and are lighted by dormer windows.

From the small square hall is a winding stairway to the cupola, which is octagonal.

The view from this elevation is sweeping and grand. The Potomac seems almost to surround the estate in its majestic bend. Ft. Washington appears to have drawn nearer. Looking west, the Virginia hills are beautifully defined, and three-quarters of a mile away is seen the old porter's lodge, which marks the boundary of the present estate. Leading to that, from the lawn gate, is an avenue, spoken of by Lossing as being a pleasant drive in former days. From this the undergrowth has been recently removed and the trees trimmed, so as to leave an unobstructed view of the lodge; and it is proposed to soon restore "the pleasant drive," by gravelling this avenue.

WEST LAWN.

Leaving the house from the west door, the interest that Washington personally bestowed upon domestic claims is fully realized. All that could contribute to the happiness of his dependants or the pleasure of his friends was a matter of conscience with him. Agriculture in its higher and lower branches was an endless source of delight to him.

From either extension on the west side there is a curved colonnade; on the right side is the "Office," a house a story and a half high, a room of which was also

used to cook the great dinners in, as the appliances of a large fireplace indicate. On the left side is the family kitchen, where the daily meals of the family, white and black, were prepared. The immense fireplace, "the crane," the low Dutch range, show that the requirements of the cook were not small or unheeded. In this room, (also in tents outside,) a good and a reasonable lunch can be had by all the visitors, while, from a stand near the door, views of Mount Vernon are sold. Outside of the kitchen door on the south side is the old well, from which it was the pride of "Westford," an old body-servant of Washington, to hand to visitors a cup of cold water. The last old servitor has long since gone the way of all the earth. Near this side of the kitchen is an old "milk-house," "meat-house," and "laundry," while on the east slope is the site of the old "summer-house," the first "ice-house," with "spring-house" below. These last three have fallen into ruin, but will doubtless, in course of time, be restored. On the west side of the kitchen is the "butler's house," at the corner of which stands the famous magnolia, (*grandiflora*), planted by Washington the year of his death, 1799. It has attained unusual proportions for the climate, and yearly puts forth its creamy bloom. The leaves of this tree have been taken as mementos to every part of the civilized globe.

The west lawn is a driving park, the curved drive

serving not merely for general approach to the house from the arched gateway at the beginning of the avenue leading to the porter's lodge, but this drive being more than a half mile in circumference afforded distance for a pleasant ride, and the thicket of trees on either side gave all needed protection, and was not infrequently used for children or invalids of the household.

The trees of this thicket were selected by Washington, and many of them planted by him when a young man. His care of them never flagged. They are hemlocks, Spanish chestnut, poplar, gum, mulberry, aspen, pine, beech, Kentucky coffee tree, all in a flourishing state, testifying the early care he gave them.

FLOWER GARDEN.

On the right side of the lawn is the flower garden; on the left side the vegetable garden. Each of these was flanked by a large orchard.

On the right and left, near the entrance of this driving-park and lawn, are two octagonal rifle-towers, built very early for defence against Indians, as their embrasures for riflemen indicate.

Four magnificent trees, each of its kind perfect, guard the entrance to the flower garden. Two are ash and two are poplar, or the American tulip tree. They were planted by Washington with exact measure-

ment, and have, in a century, done wonderful credit to his care.

Immediately within the flower garden are four very large calycanthus trees, or sweet shrub. These were sent to Washington by Thomas Jefferson as a great novelty in his day. John A. Washington, when they were a generation old, named them after the four Presidents who, in regular rotation, succeeded his illustrious uncle—Jefferson, Adams, Madison, and Monroe.

The flower garden is bordered and divided by hedges of box, (*boxus suffruticosa*,) preserved in the exact designs in which they were planted by Washington. Some of them seem to have been intended for initials of names, and others Masonic emblems.

On either side of the main walk in this garden is a species of hydrangea, which was brought over by Lafayette in his visit in 1825, and by him planted in his old friend's garden. This came originally from the grave of Napoleon. It is a hardy, beautiful flowering shrub.

Through the garden is scattered a large number of rare plants, some very old, and others recently contributed.

Mr. W. W. Corcoran, who, as all the world knows, is best pleased when doing a good and a graceful thing, has given to the Association a large number of rare foreign evergreens—Austrian pine, Swiss pine, Norway

fir, European silver fir, golden arbor vitæ; also, a handsome variety of rhododendrons from the same firm in London which has received such merited attention at the Centennial Exposition. This valuable contribution was planted under the supervision of Mr. Wm. Saunders, the eminent horticulturist. There are handsome Cape myrtles, shrub magnolias, century plants, intermixed with the simplest modest flowers, from daisy to lily. Large numbers of the rose called "Mary Washington" are yearly raised and readily sold, some years as many as three hundred. This rose, a seedling raised by General Washington and named for his mother, is a delicate tea-rose, and quite an acceptable souvenir to the visitor. At the end of the central walk is the new greenhouse, built and supplied by an appropriation from Congress. This stands on the site of the original Washington conservatory, which was destroyed by fire December, 1835. On this disastrous night very few of the rare plants were saved, among them a large bearing lemon tree, a century plant, and a Sago palm. Of these there only can be seen part of the body of the cherished old palm, though there is a hardy young growth from it.

In the greenhouse the visitor has opportunity to select a remembrance of Mount Vernon, and will have the satisfaction of knowing that the small sum re-

quired for the bouquet or plant goes into the revenue of the Association.

SOURCES OF REVENUE.

“The entrance fee” is one of the chief sources of revenue to the Association, and is embraced in the fare paid for the trip to and from Mount Vernon. A like small amount is expected from those who enter the west lawn, or either side, by land. The greenhouse is another important source of revenue. The lunch-table adds to the income; also, the sale of photographic views, and of the authenticated “Will of Washington,” and “The Mount Vernon Record.”

Lossing’s handsome volume, “The Home of Washington,” can be bought here. This work is thus gracefully dedicated by the author:

“TO HIS
PATRIOTIC COUNTRYWOMEN,
BY WHOSE EFFORTS
THE HOME AND TOMB OF WASHINGTON
HAVE BEEN RESCUED FROM
DECAY.”

Many little incidents detailed in its pages give the domestic character of Washington, and its concise descriptions of the manners and customs of a century ago are clear and life-like.

The products of the farm, the raising of fine cattle,

the cultivation of fruit of all kinds, especially new varieties, are, more than all other means, relied on to keep the estate in the order required by the "Act to authorize the purchase of Mount Vernon," which act passed the Virginia Legislature unanimously, March 17th, 1856.

The amount paid for the estate of two hundred acres was two hundred thousand dollars.

Of this sum \$68,494.59 was a contribution from the late Hon. Edward Everett, the proceeds of his great lecture upon the "Life and Character of Washington," and his writings for the *New York Ledger*.

A section in the "By-laws" of the Constitution of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union may have interest to many:

"3d. Any American lady, being a citizen of the United States, from whom the Regent, or any of the Vice-Regents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, or any local board, may for that purpose receive or recognize the receipt of the sum of one dollar, shall be a member of the Association; and the payment of the further sum of one dollar on or before the 22d day of February in any year shall entitle a member to attend and vote at the Annual Meeting of the Association of that year."

SUPERINTENDENT.

The office of Superintendent is by no means a sinecure. Not only the daily reception of guests during

the season of ten months devolves on him, (the number not unfrequently as large as two hundred,) but the care of the farm, orchard, garden, greenhouse, and all other sources of revenue, comes under his personal and responsible supervision. The Association may be congratulated for enjoying, in its Superintendent, the services of a gentleman of urbanity, patience, and integrity.

MT. VERNON'S FUTURE.

Doubtless the "pilgrimage" to Mount Vernon is yet in its incipient state. As the old homestead recovers from its long neglect; as intended restorations and suggested improvements are yearly made; as the contributions of interesting relics increase—and especially as it is not only known, but *realized*, that a clause in the act passed by the Virginia Legislature secures this spot forever sacred to Washington—will the interest be more universal and the visitors increase.

Clause 4th of the act is as follows :

"The said property herein authorized to be purchased by the said Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union shall be forever held by it sacred to the Father of his Country; and if, from any cause, the said Association shall cease to exist, the property owned by said Association shall revert to the Commonwealth of Virginia, sacred to the purposes for which it was originally purchased."

The sentiment prompting by far the larger number to visit the home and tomb of Washington is that of reverential admiration for the chieftain's life and character.

THE TOLLING BELL

of each passing steamer, as it reverberates from hill to hill, but re-echoes the voice of all ages and all people in doing honor to such greatness as is found in the life of George Washington.

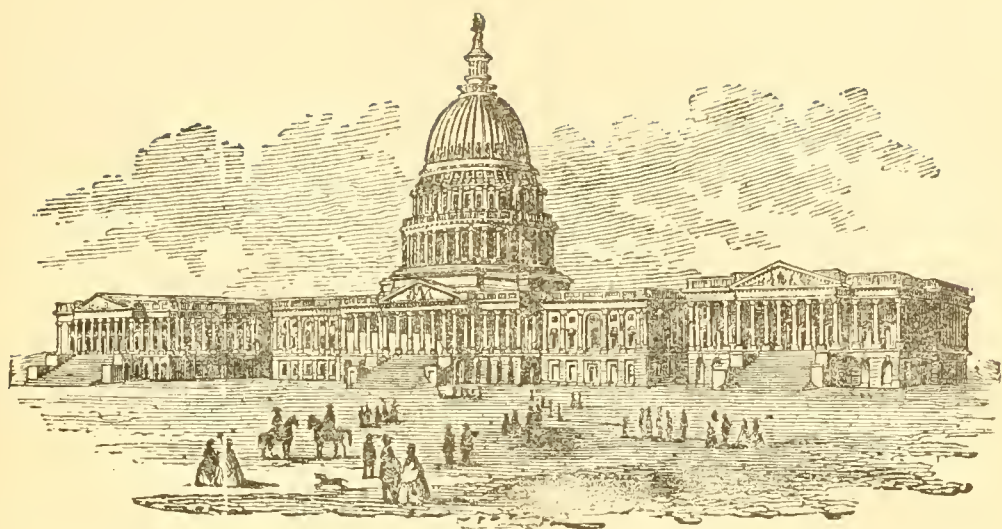
Occasionally the refined are shocked by the outspoken, would-be witty utterances of the thoughtless and the coarse, even upon a spot that should, at least, command respectful observance.

However, this little Guide is not intended to be a vehicle of reproof or sentiment, but simply an assistant to the visitor, and possibly a memorial of Mount Vernon.

THANKS.

To "The Southern Matron," and "The Northern Orator," first belong thanks unceasing for the purchase and care of the home and tomb of Washington. To the Regents and Vice-Regents for their unflagging energy and devotion is due a second and increasing debt of grateful approval.





POINTS OF INTEREST IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, Pennsylvania Avenue, between Fifteenth and Seventeenth sts.

STATE DEPARTMENT, Seventeenth st., between F st. and New York Avenue.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, Seventeenth st., opposite F st.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Seventeenth st., corner Pennsylvania Avenue.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Fifteenth st., corner Pennsylvania Avenue.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT, F st., between Seventh and Ninth sts.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT, E st., between Seventh and Eighth sts.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Freedman's Bank Building, 1507 Pennsylvania Avenue.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, on the Island, opposite Thirteenth st.

BUREAU OF EDUCATION, 711 Eighth st., north of Patent Office.

PATENT OFFICE, F st., between Seventh and Ninth sts.
 CONGRESSIONAL PRINTING OFFICE, corner N. Capitol and
 H sts.

NATIONAL OBSERVATORY, E st. north, opposite Twenty
 third st. west.

NAVY YARD, on Eastern Branch, foot of Eighth st.

ARSENAL, foot of Four-and-a-half st. west.

COAST-SURVEY BUILDING, New Jersey Avenue, south of
 Capitol.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, on the Island, opposite Tenth
 st.

CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY, one mile east of Capitol.

WASHINGTON MONUMENT, Fifteenth st.

U. S. BOTANIC GARDENS, between First and Third sts.,
 west.

MASONIC TEMPLE, corner Ninth and F sts.

COLUMBIAN INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, Kendall Green.

PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL, corner Second st. east and D
 st. north.

CORCORAN ART GALLERY, Seventeenth st.

SOLDIERS' NATIONAL CEMETERY, Virginia side of Poto-
 mac river, opposite Georgetown ; reached *via* Long
 and Aqueduct bridges.

SOLDIERS' HOME, reached *via* Seventh-street road.

HOWARD INSTITUTION, Seventh st., beyond Boundary.

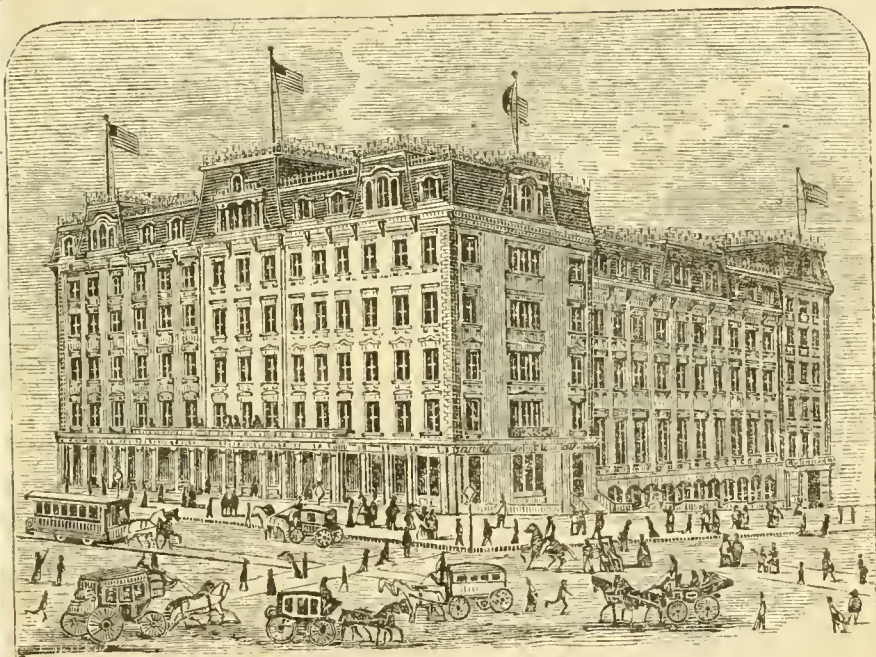
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MOUNT VERNON, seventeen miles down the river. Coach
 leaves Willard's Hotel to connect with steamer

ARROW,

which leaves Seventh-st. wharf daily, at 10 o'clock A. M.

THE EBBITT HOUSE,"



Washington City, U. S.

COR. F and 14th STREETS.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY AND NAVY.

C. C. WILLARD,

Proprietor.

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